



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Questions on Labor Force Status (P-23, 29-32)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT LABOR FORCE STATUS

- The Department of Health and Human Services uses these data in each state to help allocate Community Food and Nutrition (CNF) funds. The CNF grant formula is based on low-income and employment data.
- The Department of Labor uses these data to analyze labor market information relating to policy, legislation, and program evaluation.
- The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission uses these data to determine underrepresentation within an employment category.
- Chambers of Commerce and community development organizations use these data to demonstrate to potential investors that a city has the workforce and customer base they need.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT LABOR FORCE STATUS

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Workforce Investment Act of 1998
- Civil Rights Act of 1964

QUESTIONS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

28 LAST WEEK, did this person do ANY work for either pay or profit? Mark (X) the "Yes" box even if the person worked only 1 hour, or helped without pay in a family business or farm for 15 hours or more, or was on active duty in the Armed Forces.

☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 29

29 a. LAST WEEK, was this person on layoff from a job?
☐ Yes → SKIP to question 29c
☐ No

b. LAST WEEK, was this person TEMPORARILY absent from a job or business?
☐ Yes, on vacation, temporary illness, labor dispute, etc. → SKIP to question 32
☐ No → SKIP to question 30

c. Has this person been informed that he or she will be recalled to work within the next 6 months OR been given a date to return to work?
☐ Yes → SKIP to question 31
☐ No

30 Has this person been looking for work during the last 4 weeks?
☐ Yes
☐ No → SKIP to question 32

31 LAST WEEK, could this person have started a job if offered one, or returned to work if recalled?
☐ Yes, could have gone to work
☐ No, because of own temporary illness
☐ No, because of all other reasons (in school, etc.)

32 When did this person last work, even for a few days?
☐ Within the past 12 months
☐ 1 to 5 years ago → SKIP to question 35
☐ Over 5 years ago or never worked → SKIP to question 41

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE LABOR FORCE STATUS QUESTIONS

- Questions on labor force status have been asked since 1930.
- Labor force status questions also were asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

This series of questions provides information to classify the entire working-age population into categories showing the labor force status of the country. The distinctions between the categories make it possible to calculate meaningful measures of labor force conditions, such as the unemployment rate and the employment-population ratio. Also, these questions identify specific segments of the population (e.g., the civilian labor force), which are critical in compiling other statistics such as the occupational data needed for equal employment opportunity programs.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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